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From the Office of the Director of Health

Immunizations Protect Children from Illness

Research shows that effective vaccination programs help eliminate disease and protect children from illness. Immunization programs have wiped out naturally occurring smallpox and polio and have reduced childhood vaccine-preventable disease. In fact, in the last three years, Greene County has seen only 1 case of mumps and no cases of measles, both vaccine preventable diseases.

National Infant Immunization Week April 25th through May 1st focuses on the importance of immunizations for infants and toddlers. Before age 2, a child should receive immunizations against 12 diseases. Immunizations protect not only the child's health, but the health of the entire community as well.

On April 28th the Westside Public Health Center at 660 South Scenic will offer a special walk-in clinic from 8:30 am to 11:00 am and from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Immunizations required for daycare or school will be provided at no cost. Parents should be prepared to present the child's prior immunization record.

Immunization Coordinator Leslie Davis says, "One of the most important ways parents can protect their children is to follow the childhood immunization schedule and get their children vaccinated against serious, but preventable diseases. Vaccines are one of medicine's greatest triumphs, because they prevent serious disease and death."

For more information on immunizations and clinic schedules, or to make an appointment, contact the Westside Public Health Center at (417) 874-1220 or visit our website at <http://health.springfieldmogov.org>.

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